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10 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
11 Pamala Leadbetter Dean

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

PAMALA LEADBETTER DEAN, ) Case No.: 1:25-cv-616 SKO  
Plaintiff, ) STIPULATION AND UNOPPOSED  
vs. ) MOTION FOR THE AWARD AND  
FRANK BISIGNANO, ) PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES  
Commissioner of Social Security, ) AND EXPENSES PURSUANT TO  
Defendant. ) THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE  
 ) ACT, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d) AND  
 ) COSTS PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §  
 ) 1920; ORDER

(Doc. 18)

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TO THE HONORABLE SHEILA K. OBERTO, MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
OF THE DISTRICT COURT:

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their  
undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Pamala Leadbetter  
Dean (“Dean”) be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount of three  
thousand three hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$3,388.00) under the Equal Access to

1 Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920.  
2 This amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of  
3 Dean by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C.  
4 §§ 1920; 2412(d).

5 Dean was the prevailing party in this matter and Dean is an individual whose  
6 net worth does not exceed \$2,000,000 at the time the civil action was filed. The  
7 position of the Commissioner was not substantially justified and an award of fees  
8 is not unjust.

9 Under *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 130 S. Ct. 2521, 2528-29 (2010), EAJA fees  
10 awarded by this Court belong to the Dean and are subject to offset under the  
11 Treasury Offset Program (31 U.S.C. § 3716(c)(3)(B) (2006)). Any EAJA fees  
12 should therefore be awarded to Dean and not to Dean's attorney. Fees can be made  
13 payable by check or electronic funds transfer (EFT).

14 If, after receiving the Court's order awarding fees and expenses under the  
15 EAJA, the Commissioner (1) determines that Dean has assigned her right to EAJA  
16 fees to her attorney; (2) determines that Dean does not owe a debt that is subject to  
17 offset under the Treasury Offset Program, the EAJA fees will be made payable to  
18 Dean's attorney. However, if there is a debt owed under the Treasury Offset  
19 Program, the remaining EAJA fees after offset will be paid by a check or EFT  
20 made out to Dean but delivered to Dean's attorneys, Lawrence D. Rohlfing, Inc.,  
21 CPC pursuant to the assignment executed by Dean.<sup>1</sup>

22 The retainer agreement containing the assignment by Dean to counsel is  
23 attached as exhibit 1. The firm's hours are attached as exhibit 2.  
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25 <sup>1</sup> The parties do not stipulate whether counsel has a cognizable lien under federal  
26 law against the recovery of EAJA fees and expenses that survives the Treasury  
Offset Program.

This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Dean's request for EAJA attorney fees and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Dean and/or Lawrence D. Rohlfing including Law Offices of Lawrence D. Rohlfing, Inc., CPC may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

The parties further agree that the EAJA award is without prejudice to the right of Lawrence D. Rohlfing and/or the Law Offices of Lawrence D. Rohlfing, Inc., CPC to seek attorney fees pursuant to Social Security Act § 206(b), 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the offset provisions of the EAJA. See 28 U.S.C. § 2412(c)(1) (2006).

DATE: October 21, 2025      Respectfully submitted,

## LAW OFFICES OF LAWRENCE D. ROHLFING, INC., CPC

/s/ *Lawrence D. Rohlfing*<sup>2</sup>

BY:

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Lawrence D. Rohlfing  
Attorney for plaintiff Pamala Leadbetter Dean

DATED: October 23, 2025

ERIC GRANT  
United States Attorney  
MATHEW W. PILE  
Associate General Counsel  
Social Security Administration

/s/ Katherine S. Bowles

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KATHERINE S. BOWLES  
Special Assistant United States Attorney  
Attorneys for Defendant FRANK BISIGNANO,  
Commissioner of Social Security  
(Per e-mail authorization)

<sup>2</sup> Counsel for the plaintiff attests that all other signatories listed, and on whose behalf the filing is submitted, concur in the filing's content and have authorized the filing.

## ORDER

Based upon the parties' foregoing Stipulation and Unopposed Motion for Award of EAJA Fees ("Stipulation") (Doc. 18), IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiff Pamala Leadbetter Dean ("Dean") be awarded attorney fees and expenses in the amount of **three thousand three hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$3,388)** under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), and no costs under 28 U.S.C. § 1920, subject to the terms and conditions of the Stipulation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **October 27, 2025**

/s/ Sheila K. Oberto

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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